

### REMARKS

Claim 1 was presented for examination, is pending and is rejected.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by Crowley.

Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by Lemelson.

Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by Mah et al.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applicant has amended claim 1 to include limitations not taught by Crowley, Lemelson and Mah et al. For example, none of the references teach the applicant's probe shaft comprising a proximal end and a distal end, wherein said proximal end is mounted to a support that comprises a key-opening; at least one first fiber optic that traverses the length of the inside of said probe shaft; and a handle shaft with a key fixedly attached to said handle shaft, wherein when said key is inserted into said key-opening, said at least one first fiber optic is in optical alignment with said at least one second fiber optic.

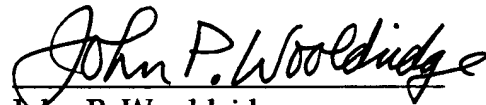
Therefore the rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusions

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on claims 1-24 in view of the amendments thereto and the foregoing comments.

If any impediments remain to prompt allowance of the case, please contact the undersigned at 808-875-0012.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John P. Wooldridge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John P. Wooldridge  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 38,725

Dated: May 2, 2005